

REMARKS

Although Applicant disagrees with the rejections in the Office Action of 23 July 2004, Claims 15-17, 59, 60 and 62-71 have been canceled to expedite prosecution. Claim 61 has been amended to independent form.

Provisional Rejection of Claims 60-63 (page 28 of Office Action)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 60-63 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-32 (especially Claims 1-5) of copending application no. 09/369,966 (PG PUB: 2002/0037839A1). US Application No. 09/369,966 issued on 30 September 2003 as Patent No. 6,627,738.

Claims 60, 62 and 63 have been canceled. A terminal disclaimer is being filed concurrently, which should render moot the double patenting rejection for Claim 61.

Provisional Rejection of Claims 60-63 (page 29 of Office Action)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 60-63 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-33 (especially Claims 1-5) of copending application no. 10/638,969 (PG PUB: 2004/0132638A1).

Claims 60, 62 and 63 have been canceled. A terminal disclaimer is being filed concurrently, which should render moot the double patenting rejection for Claim 61.

Claims 15-17, 59, 60 and 62-71 have been canceled, rendering all other rejections moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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